

Application No. 09/913,617
Amendment and Request for Reconsideration
After Final Rejection dated February 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 21, 2003

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (previously presented): A deformable endoscope comprising a closed fiberscope part housing at least one light/image transmission passage and at least one work channel, at least one additional instrument, the fiberscope part being separable from the at least one additional instrument, a holding device including at least one permanent magnet and at least one counter-element made of magnetic material, holding and/or guiding the fiberscope part and the at least one additional instrument relative to one another, the fiberscope part and the at least one additional instrument forming a unit when not separated from each other which has a non-round cross-section along a longitudinal insertion section that is to be introduced into a body orifice, the fiberscope part and the at least one additional instrument being displaceable relative to one another in a longitudinal direction of the unit.

Claim 26 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 25 wherein the additional instrument can be alternatively fixed at the fiberscope part by means of the holding device or released from the fiberscope part to allow relative movement in a longitudinal direction of the additional instrument and the fiberscope part.

Claims 27 and 28 (cancelled)

Claim 29 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 25 wherein one of a groove and a holding clamp and a corresponding rail or corresponding rail segments are provided as a holding device at the fiberscope part and at the additional instrument.

Claim 30 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 25 wherein the counter-element is an integral part of one of the additional instrument and the

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fiberscope part; and/or wherein the permanent magnet is provided at a plurality of sections of the other one of the additional instrument and the fiberscope part.

Claim 31-33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 25 including one of a jacket hose and a side cover provided at the fiberscope part as a holding device for the acceptance of the additional instrument, the one of the jacket hose and the side cover extending along at least a part of the insertion section of the endoscope.

Claim 35 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 34 wherein the jacket hose surrounds both the fiberscope part and the additional instrument.

Claim 36 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 25 wherein a cross-section of the insertion section is matched to the body orifice.

Claim 37 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 25 wherein a cross-section dimension of the insertion section is larger in one direction than in a direction orthogonal thereto.

Claim 38 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 25 wherein the additional instrument comprises at least one of biopsy forceps, an aspirator/injector probe, a pH probe, a pressure measuring instrument and a Bilitec measuring probe.

Claim 39 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 25 wherein the additional instrument is provided laterally spaced with respect to a center of the cross-section of the insertion section.

Claim 40 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 37 including a Bowden cable for activating swiveling the endoscope in the direction of its larger cross-sectional dimension.

Claim 41 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 36 wherein the endoscope comprises a pharyngo-esophago-gastroscope for examining the pharynx,

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esophagus and/or stomach, and wherein a cross-section of the insertion section is matched to a cross-section of a meatus of a human nose.

Claim 42 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 37 wherein the cross-section of the insertion section corresponds to one of an isosceles triangle and a mirror-symmetric trapezium, each including rounded corners and a base having a length of no more than approximately 3.5 mm.

Claim 43 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 38 wherein a greatest cross-section dimension of the additional instrument is no more than about 3 mm.

Claim 44 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 43 wherein the greatest cross-section dimension is no more than approximately 2 mm.

Claim 45 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 25 wherein the fiberscope part and the additional instrument are displaceable relative to each other by up to approximately 35 cm in their longitudinal directions.

Claim 46 (previously presented): An endoscope according to claim 25 wherein the fiberscope part and the additional instrument are displaceable relative to each other by a length of up to approximately 5 cm.

Claim 47 (previously presented): An endoscope according to claim 25 wherein the light/image transmission passage comprises at least one separate light transmission passage and at least one separate image transmission passage.

Claim 48 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 25 including a plastic covering for at least one of the permanent magnet and the counter-element.

Claims 49 and 50 (cancelled)

Claim 51 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 34 wherein the jacket hose is elastic with respect to its diameter.

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Claim 52 (previously presented): An endoscope in accordance with claim 34 including a rail-groove connection which renders at least one of the jacket hose and the side cover displaceable relative to the fiberscope part.